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**BULLETIN
OF THE
CENTER FOR
CHILDREN'S
BOOKS**

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO PRESS

EXPLANATION OF CODE SYMBOLS USED
WITH ANNOTATIONS

- R Recommended
- Ad Additional book of acceptable quality for collections needing more material in the area.
- M Marginal book that is so slight in content or has so many weaknesses in style or format that it should be given careful consideration before purchase.
- NR Not recommended
- SpC Subject matter or treatment will tend to limit the book to specialized collections.
- SpR. A book that will have appeal for the unusual reader only. Recommended for the special few who will read it.

Except for pre-school years, reading range is given for grade rather than for age of child.

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Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO • GRADUATE LIBRARY SCHOOL

Volume 23

June, 1970

Number 10

New Titles for Children and Young People

Alterman, Hyman. Counting People; The Census in History. Harcourt, 1969. 368p. illus. \$6.95.

R
10- A serious and impressive survey of census-taking, from the earliest Egyptian and Babylonian counts to the problems of today's population boom. Basic to the author's approach is his consideration of the question, "Who are people?" to which, he says, ". . . the real, living response, 'Not everybody,' appears in many disguises." True in our own country about ethnic minorities, true elsewhere about slaves and women; in Africa the census takers run into the problems of fitting one set of cultural definitions into the terminology of another culture. This is, therefore, a social commentary as well as a compilation of historical information; it discusses not only computerization but conflict about the kind of information that should be required of citizens. An extensive divided bibliography and an index are appended.

Asimov, Isaac. ABC's of Space. Walker, 1969. 48p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.87 net.

R
3-5 Handsome, informative as it is possible to be within the restrictions imposed by an alphabetical format, and written with Asimov's usual simple clarity. Photographs and some drawings are used to illustrate space terminology, with two words and their definitions for each letter. There is a small weakness in the use of capital and lower case letters; in some instances ("Jupiter" and "jet") the distinction is valid, in others ("Rocket" and "reentry") artificial. The layout and the writing make the book one that younger children can use.

Babun, Edward. The Varieties of Man; An Introduction to Human Races. Crowell-Collier, 1969. 88p. illus. \$3.95.

Ad
8-12 A good introduction to the study of the races of mankind, emphasizing the process of natural selection and the adaptations of all animal forms to environment and climate. The author discusses the evolution of the five major racial groups in terms of anatomical and physiological traits, genotypes and phenotypes, and of external or temporal factors as opposed to genetic factors. Out of the pool of racial stocks, thirty-six contemporary races have evolved and each is briefly described. The writing is for the layman, so that an occasional digression into scientific minutiae seems out of place, and the presentation of theories is clear

but rather tepid. A map of racial distribution, a list of suggested readings, and an index are appended.

Baker, Charlotte. The Kittens and the Cardinals; written and illus. by Charlotte Baker. McKay, 1969. 150p. \$4.25.

M
4-5 A worthy theme, kindness to animals, is overemphasized to the detriment of a pleasant book about a group of children. Attention in this volume (it is, like some others by the author, about children who belong to Kindness Clubs) is centered on one of the Kittens, Jane, whose shyness makes it hard for her to participate in some group activities. The story is episodic, linked by the theme and the thin plot, with some incidents (the dissection unit in the seventh grade science class, which one of the fathers calls "dangerous nonsense") patently introduced to give the author a rostrum. The style is adequate, dialogue weak, purpose good, and illustrations of poor calibre.

Barth, Edna. Lilies, Rabbits, and Painted Eggs; The Story of the Easter Symbols; illus. by Ursula Arndt. Seabury, 1970. 63p. \$4.50.

Ad
3-5 A book devoted chiefly to the symbols and customs of the Easter season, although it gives an adequate amount of information about the religious significance of the day and describes some of the pre-Christian celebrations of the springtime that have been incorporated into Christian observance. The text gives many facts about customs, symbols, rites, and derivations, but it is written in a staid style. A list of other Easter books for children and an index are appended.

Bomans, Godfried. The Wily Wizard and the Wicked Witch; And Other Weird Stories; tr. by Patricia Crampton; illus. by Robert Bartelt. Watts, 1969. 180p. \$4.95.

R
4-6 Translated from the Dutch, a collection of original fairy tales illustrated with lively drawings in black and white. Many of the author's themes are typical of the genre; his treatment is not, the plots having wry turns that are tart and amusing, and the writing a refreshing blend of orthodox-magic with brisk touches of humor. In "The Sunday Child," for example, the couple who are hoping for a baby born on Sunday to round out their brood always pull an empty cradle up to the table, for "you never know." Although replete with sinister figures, the book does have some tales that are simply merry; even the weird tales, however, may have a note of humor, as evidenced by a ghostly apparition that says softly, "I am immaterial."

Chapin, Cynthia. Clean Streets, Clean Water, Clean Air; illus. by Charles Lynch. Whitman, 1970. 31p. Trade ed. \$2.25; Library ed. \$1.69 net.

Ad
2-3 "He runs into the house. Jack has work to do. Jack comes out with a full garbage can. . . ." A slight fictional framework detracts from the treatment of a timely topic. Jack finds out about garbage disposal; he washes his hands (information on water purification and filtration); he asks his father about the furnace filter (discussion of air pollution). The last few pages describe some of the pollutants and some of the solutions but they are given slight treatment. The importance of the subject and the difficulty of finding material at the primary level give the book usefulness despite the weaknesses of style and treatment.

Cullen, Countee. The Lost Zoo; illus. by Joseph Low. Follett, 1969. 95p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.98 net.

R
5- First published in 1940 by Harper & Row, and long out of print, The Lost Zoo is the unauthenticated and amusing story of the response to Noah's invitations to join the cruising party on his ship. The acceptances are entertaining, especially the explanations of why some animals (the squilililigee, the ha-ha-ha) never made it in time. These are poems; they are preceded and followed by some rather acrimonious dialogue between the author and his know-it-all cat, Christopher. The vocabulary is not simple, but the book is well-suited to reading aloud to younger children.

Ellis, Ella Thorp. Riptide; illus. by Joel Snyder. Atheneum, 1969. 201p. Trade ed. \$4.75; Library ed. \$4.37 net.

Ad
7-10 He'd been saving money for two years so that he could have a motorcycle, but Mike fell in love with the beach buggy that elderly Peter Varian had for sale—and, in a short time, with his grandchild Mary. Most of the story is concerned with Mike's efforts to prove to his father that he is not too cocky to be a good driver, but a strong second theme is Mike's ambivalent feelings toward his older brother, Pat, who is facing the draft. Mike has all the usual adolescent hang-ups, and they are handled realistically. He comes to the conclusion that if he just goes along with the tide of events, he won't be too far off. The characterization and dialogue are good, the writing style uneven, sometimes turgid. The book has an ambience of tension that is unremitting, with no light or placid episodes to serve as contrast.

Elmer, Irene. A Lodestone and a Toadstone; illus. by Nicolas Sidjakov. Knopf, 1969. 34p. \$4.50.

M
K-2 Vladimir lives with Great-great-aunt Alice, who humors the boy's passion for collecting stones; she had in fact given him an emerald on the Fourth of July and a sapphire on Bastille Day. Having learned from a book that there was a rare, beautiful toadstone, Vladimir goes off to hunt one. He finds that the ugly toad has a rare, beautiful green glow behind its eyes—but there is no way to get the stone, so he lets the captive toad go. The illustrations are muted in color, intricate and stylized; the story has some moments that are amusing but the story line is weak and the message vague, some of the writing too sophisticated for the read-aloud audience.

Elting, Mary. If You Lived in the Days of the Wild Mammoth Hunters; by Mary Elting and Franklin Folsom; illus. by John Moodie. Four Winds, 1969. 71p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.89 net.

Ad Although the writing style is intermittently flat (due in part to the question-and-answer format) this is an easy introduction to paleontology, factually accurate and giving a quite good general picture of the life of primitive man. It also describes some of the ways in which scientists use clues to establish logical hypotheses about unprovable data. As in other books in this series, the discussion of what boys and girls did within the culture can evoke interest and stimulate classroom colloquy.

Farmer, Penelope. Charlotte Sometimes; illus. by Chris Connor. Harcourt, 1969. 192p. \$4.95.

R
5-7 Another fantasy-adventure from the deft pen that produced Emma in Winter and The Summer Birds. Here a newcomer to boarding school finds that she has somehow been shifted back to the days of World War I; not always, but sometimes she becomes Clare instead of Charlotte, living with a younger sister at the same school. Slowly Charlotte realizes that she and Clare are changing places and that her life as Charlotte is being lived by Clare on the days she herself is in the past. Trapped by a mishap in Clare's time, Charlotte must scheme to get back to the present. The concept has been used in science fiction, but seldom has it been used to such dramatic effect in books for the young. The boarding school setting and the period details are quite convincing, and the suspense is maintained even when the mechanics of the mystery are explained.

Fleming, Alice. The Senator from Maine; Margaret Chase Smith. T. Y. Crowell, 1969. 136p. \$3.95.

Ad
6-9 A biography of the only woman to serve in both houses of Congress, a person notable for her integrity and her dedication to her commitments, can hardly fail to be interesting, although the writing style is undistinguished and the tone verges on adulatory. Margaret Chase Smith had no college education, and her political education began as the wife of a congressman whose term she filled after his death. Her zeal in office and her personal probity are a quiet legend, and the detailed record of her political career ends with an account of Senator Smith's bid for the presidential nomination in 1964. A relative index is appended.

Forman, Leona Shluger. Bico; A Brazilian Raft Fisherman's Son; photographs by Shepard Forman and the author. Lothrop, 1969. 92p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.56 net.

R
3-5 Like the "My Village" series by the Gidals, this has a first-person text that is accompanied by photographs of Bico, a ten-year-old, his family, and the community life of Pontal, a small coastal village. Bico's family is poor, as are most Pontal families; he speaks quite matter-of-factly about the paucity of food and clothing. Cheerfully he describes his friends and their games, village customs and religious ceremonies, a trip to a market, and the few evidences of progress he has encountered. Grandfather is the son of a slave, and he has given Bico information about the past. Pleasant, informative, and plausible as the commentary of a boy of ten. Instructions for making a model fishing raft are appended.

Freeman, Mae (Blacker). Finding Out about Shapes; illus. by Bill Morrison. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 47p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.83 net.

R
K-3 A good introduction to spatial conceptualization, with simple definitions of shapes, lines, and forms. The examples given are often ramified by repetition or by the illustrations, and the text is limited to the most familiar shapes, using what has already been described in defining the more complex shape. (In describing a pyramid, for example, the ideas of flatness and of the straight line are combined with the already-explained triangle.) The final double-page spread incorporates all of

the material in the text in a busy picture in which the child can hunt for examples of what he has just learned.

Gárdonyi, Géza. Slave of the Huns; tr. by Andrew Feldmar; illus. and with a foreward by Victor C. Ambrus. Bobbs-Merrill, 1969. 358p. \$5.

R
8-10 First published in Hungary in 1901 under the title Láthatatlan, an historical adventure story that has become a classic. The tale is told by Zeta, whose Thracian father had sold him, at the age of twelve, into slavery. Educated and freed by his master, Zeta goes along on a diplomatic mission to the camp of Attila; he falls in love with the lady Emmo, to whose hand he can hardly aspire, and decides to stay with the Huns. As one of their entourage, he becomes involved in the last bitter battle in which Attila is killed. The writing is almost somber, but it fits the dark magnificence of the Hunnish life, the contrast between opulent wealth and savage vigor. Historically interesting and full of color and drama.

Harris, Rosemary. The Moon in the Cloud. Macmillan, 1970. 182p. \$4.95.

R
5-8 Winner of the 1969 Carnegie Medal, a fanciful story with a Biblical setting and a sophisticated humor that permeates even those scenes that are more dramatic or expository than humorous. Reuben and Thamar are a young couple who live in a tent near Noah and his family, and it is Reuben who goes to Egypt to hunt for the animals needed to make up Noah's quota. Ham is supposed to go, but he is lazy and besides, he has his eye on pretty Thamar, so he promises Reuben passage on the Ark if he returns with a cat and two lions. Most of the story is concerned with Reuben's adventures: his captivity, his friendship with the Lord of Two Lands, and his escape into the desert. The cat Cefalu, which Reuben has brought from home, has some adventures of his own, events on which Cefalu makes caustic and frequent comments. Written with skill, a tale that has suspense, action, wit, and wisdom.

10
4
R
6-9
10
Hill, Margaret. Time to Quit Running. Messner, 1970. 191p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.34 net.

2
Definitely not a formula high school romance. Val has just moved to town and hopes that she will fade into anonymity at school, because she doesn't want anyone to see her home or meet her family. Her father is shiftless and her mother a whining hypochondriac, both of them speak ungrammatically, and their squalid home is in the worst part of town. The book has a good balance of school and social life, and both of these affect and are affected by Val's home situation, but it is primarily her shame in, and later acceptance of her milieu that give body to the story. Characterization and dialogue are good, and the plot develops with natural evolution: Val lies about her situation to evade discovery and is trapped by her lies; the awkwardness she creates leads to misunderstanding. She is ready to marry an older man, partly to get away, but circumstances force her to return home and to accept her family, an acceptance made easier by the clear evidence that her friends will not spurn her because of them; thus she is able to drop the burden of deceit and the pressure of constant dissimulation.

Hodges, Elizabeth Jamison. Free As a Frog; illus. by Paul Giovanopoulos. Addison-Wesley, 1969. 28p. \$3.25.

M
5-6
yrs Only six, Johnnie would sit under the table shyly and wonder at his sister Vinnie, dancing in front of all the neighbors in the living room. It made her feel free, she said. Johnnie couldn't understand it, because he couldn't even bring himself to speak at "Share and Tell" time in school. One day he found a frog, and for a while enjoyed the attention his friends gave, but it wasn't until he let the frightened creature go that Johnnie felt happy. Bouncing, he told his mother that now he felt free as a frog. The soft, strong, black and white illustrations show an appealing black child; the story never quite jells, since the ideas of overcoming shyness and letting a wild creature go free are rather contrivedly combined. The latter theme is used also in Freddie Found a Frog by Napjus (reviewed in the May, 1970 issue.) It seems, indeed, to be a toad-and-frog year, with Mayer's Frog, Where Are You? (Jan. 1970 issue), Keith's Rrra-ah, Discovering What Frogs Do by Simon, and Star Bright by Zakhoder, reviewed below.

Keith, Eros. Rrra-ah; wirtten and illus. by Eros Keith. Bradbury Press, 1969. 27p. \$4.95.

R
K-3 Bad enough to go from a life of freedom, sunshine, and the indolent joys of clover-sniffing to captivity and inedible food, but to be called a frog when you are a toad. . . poor Rrra-ah. Caught by some children and taken to their home, he was dumped into a match box and given—ugh—turtle food. After several chase scenes, the children's mother ordered the "frog" out. Sadly they took Rrra-ah back to the watermeadow, and the story ends with a blissful little toad listening to the lovely twilight chorus of toad voices. The illustrations are soft in color, moving from a peaceful beginning to the excitement and action of capture and escape attempts, and back to the first theme. The style is light and polished, the humor subtle.

Klaperman, Libby M. A Different Girl; illus. by Adrina Zanazanian. Lion, 1969. 154p. \$3.50.

M
4-6 Betty Lou, excitedly telling her best friend about the fact that a new family is moving in next door, is surprised when Sherry says contemptuously that Betty Lou won't like the Mossmans, because they're black. Peggy Mossman proves to be a pleasant new friend, and Betty Lou can't understand why Sherry is so nasty, even calling Peggy names at a birthday party. A burning cross on the Mossman's lawn shocks the neighbors, and people become more conscious of the need to take a stand. Betty Lou's older sister starts a youth forum and converts a hitherto-prejudiced boy friend. Sherry, ashamed of her own hate, runs off for hours and is picked up penitent and having had a commendable but unconvincing change of heart. The three girls form a secret club. The problems of residential integration are honestly reflected but handled with no originality; characterization is superficial and the writing style pedestrian.

Kristof, Jane. Steal Away Home; illus. by W. T. Mars. Bobbs-Merrill, 1969. 127p. \$4.95.

R
5-7 A story of the underground railroad. Amos, who is twelve, describes the station-to-station progress of his flight to Philadelphia (more helped than hindered by an intelligent, quick younger brother) where his father is a free man. There are frightening episodes and placid ones, with peo-

ple of good will and bad; the story is well-told and the plot has variety and good pace.

Kyle, Elisabeth. Song of the Waterfall; The Story of Edvard and Nina Grieg. Holt, 1970. 233p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

Ad
5-7 As much a picture of the development of indigenous cultural institutions in nineteenth-century Norway as it is a biography, this is simply written and well-researched, only occasionally slowed by bland or tangential incidents. Edvard Grieg's musical education was intermittently hampered by his mother's disapproval, his own poor health, and the prevailing belief that the Norwegian folk-themes he loved were common and unworthy compared to the breadth and sophistication of German music. The love affair between Grieg and his cousin is treated tenderly, but this is not really a biography of both. The relationships between Grieg and other famous figures (Ole Bull, Arthur Sullivan, Franz Liszt, Henrik Ibsen) add appeal.

Lenski, Lois. Debbie and Her Family; written and illus. by Lois Lenski. Walck, 1969. 47p. \$3.

Debbie Herself; written and illus. by Lois Lenski. Walck, 1969. 47p. \$3.

M
2-4
yrs Stiff drawings add little appeal to two books about a three-year-old girl. In Debbie Herself the child's everyday activities are described: "Debbie dresses up in funny clothes/ And down the street prancing she goes/ Sister comes running to bring her back/ She says, 'Come home!' and gives her a smack." In Debbie and Her Family, which does not have a rhyming text, the various members of Debbie's family are introduced and briefly described. While the books have some usefulness as a starting-point for discussing familial relationships and some value in reflecting everyday activities, they are dull and humorless, and they do not always depict the most positive aspects of intra-family attitudes.

Lindenmeyer, Otto. Black and Brave; The Black Soldier in America. McGraw-Hill, 1970. 128p. illus. Trade ed. \$5.50; Library ed. \$5.33 net.

Ad
7-10 Based on a television documentary series, a survey of the participation of Negroes in the military history of this country. The text is divided by wars, the material well-researched, the tone candid, the writing style adequate although crowded with facts and names. A quite superficial chronology is appended, as are a list of black winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a bibliography, and an index.

Lopshire, Robert. It's Magic? written and illus. by Robert Lopshire. Macmillan, 1969. 30p. illus. \$3.95

R
2-4 A compilation of tricks (no magic) some of which are jokes and some very simple demonstrations of physical principles. The perpetrator is a bear, Tad the Great, and the stooge is another bear, Boris. The author-illustrator has infused the simply written text with a gaiety shared by the illustrations. Tad really seems deflating as he calmly points out or demonstrates the solutions to the ever-credulous Boris. All the tricks are simple to do and require only such ubiquitous articles as toothpicks, handkerchiefs, paper clips, a glass of water, etc.

Lowenfels, Walter, ed. The Writing on the Wall; 108 American Poems of Protest; ed. by Walter Lowenfels. Doubleday, 1969. 189p. \$4.95.

R
9- An excellent anthology, diverse in style and form, echoing the tempo of our times; some of the poets are of past generations but of contemporary vision, but most are the poets of today. The selections reflect the restlessness of youth and its rejection of ephemeral values, the protest against war and racial injustice, the isolation of man from fellow man.

MacDonald, George. The Light Princess; illus. by Maurice Sendak. Farrar, 1969. 110p. \$3.95.

R
3-6 A charming story that has stood the test of time, in an edition that follows the full text of the original. The problems of the princess who had been deprived, as an infant, of her gravity and whose life hung in the balance when she grew up are amusing as ever and the sweet capitulation to love that brings her (literally) to her feet, just as touching. All of the best of MacDonald is reflected in the Sendak illustrations: the humor and wit, the sweetness and tenderness, and the sophistication—and they are beautiful.

Madison, Arnold. The Secret of the Carved Whale Bone; illus. by Don Lambo. McKay, 1969. 118p. \$3.50.

M
5-6 The family treasure that turns up in time to save the family finances is a theme often used before, particularly familiar when it has the embellishment of a young protagonist who deciphers the mystery that adults (sometimes, as here, generations of adults) have failed to perceive. Peter and Nancy Horton fly to the east coast to stay with Uncle Eb when their mother has to fly to Japan to join their injured father (also a familiar device) and they find that Uncle Eb has only a week to save his business. Obliging, Pete interprets the old clues and Nancy provides the last deduction that brings to light a gem that will save Uncle Eb. Were it not for some amiable relationships and a few deviations from the formula mystery, the story would be quite hackneyed, but the characters, style, and dialogue are considerably less unwieldy than the plot.

Mann, Peggy. The Twenty-Five Cent Friend; illus. by Unada. Coward-McCann, 1970. 42p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.49 net.

M
K-2 Peter had missed the first two weeks, and he found himself ignored at the new school. The teacher was nice, but the class leader, Willy, teased Peter and the other children followed Willy's lead. In desperation, Peter offered a quarter to one of the girls if she would be his friend. She agreed, and announced loudly that Peter was her friend, but nothing changed. Not until Peter's vehement beating of a drum during the music hour did he win approval. His friend, Laurie Lee, explained that it had been the "fashion" not to like him, but that Willy's clear approval now had changed the fashion. Not entirely convincing, partly because the class members seem to do little but chat and play, but the story deals with a problem that affects many children. The writing style is adequate, the illustrations pedestrian. The ending is weak, since Peter's acceptance depends on chance events rather than his own efforts or any constructive group action; and the social authority of Willy is never questioned.

Martinez, Jose. A Foot in Two Worlds; by Jose Martinez with Emmett Smith. Childrens Press, 1970. 64p. illus. (Open Door Books) \$3.

R
6-9 José's father worked hard for his three dollars a week in the Arecibo sugarcane fields; that was why he was determined that his son get an education and equally determined that José be honest and respectful, so that he could have a better life. After army service José went back to Puerto Rico, but his schooling was little help in getting work. A move to Chicago, marriage to a childhood sweetheart, and a new daughter convinced José that he wanted a career, not just a succession of jobs. With further study he became a policeman and is now working as a tactical squad member, knowing the trouble spots of the city and the abrasive areas in human relations. This and the Stoval book reviewed below are two of a new series in career guidance, for and by ethnic minorities, simply written but rather self-conscious. They should be useful, especially since several dull but informative pages that describe the career, prerequisites, training, working conditions, et cetera are included. Several sources of additional information are appended.

Mehdevi, Anne Sinclair. Parveen. Knopf, 1969. 177p. \$4.50.

Ad
6-9 A romance in diary form. Parveen Daftar's Persian father and American mother had met in Paris, wed, and had a daughter, but when they went to Persia, her mother found she was too unhappy to stay. The story begins with Parveen's invitation to leave Chicago, where she had been living with her mother, and visit her father and his new family in Persia. She is irritated by some of the strict customs, intrigued by others, and very fond of her stepmother, but Parveen has no intention of staying—until the dashing young Javad comes along. With a few minor stays, the path of true love runs to the expectable betrothal. The setting is quite fascinating, vivid with eyewitness detail and interesting because it is a time of change, the 1920's, just before the election of Reza Pahlavi. The writing style is good, although the diary entries are not convincing; too long, too heavy with dialogue.

Mehta, Rama. The Life of Keshav; A Family Story from India. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 223p. \$5.95.

R
6-9 A very good story of contemporary India, the young protagonist caught between the impositions of traditional patterns of living and the desire for an education that will inevitably change those patterns. Helped by a wealthy family, Keshav enters a private school—but there are always pressures in his poverty-stricken and ritual-bound home life that make it difficult to study. The story line is firm, but it is not as important in itself as it is in the role of a sort of rope on which are strung the adornments of the book: the sharply drawn characters, the dramatic or tragicomic scenes of village and family life.

Monjo, Ferdinand N. The One Bad Thing about Father; illus. by Rocco Negri. Harper, 1970. 63p. (I Can Read Books) Trade ed. \$2.50; Library ed. \$2.57 net.

R
2-3 Quentin Roosevelt never kept a childhood diary, but this invented one will do very nicely: it is consistently childlike, it gives a vivid impression of the vigorous Theodore Roosevelt and some of the flavor of the period, and it is above all a charming picture of family life. The one bad

thing about father is, of course, that he is too busy to play with Quentin and his brother. The writing is ingenuous and candid, the illustrations attractive save for some rather blank children's faces.

Moore, Carman. Somebody's Angel Child; The Story of Bessie Smith. T. Y. Crowell, 1970. 121p. illus. \$4.50.

R
6-9 The author is a black musician, the subject the greatest blues singer of them all, the story dramatic and sad—a blues story. Unschooled, orphaned, a neglected slum child, Bessie was singing and on the road before she was adolescent. She came up the hard way, and when she hit the top, the Empress of the Blues started down the hard way, too. Extravagant and generous, Bessie slid into a hard-drinking penury that ended abruptly with her accidental death before she was forty. The text includes interpolated lyrics that read, as do most popular lyrics, flatly, but they may appeal to the reader whose primary interest is blues or jazz history. The writing is honest, the story inherently dramatic. A bibliography, a selected discography, a list of compositions and lyrics by Bessie Smith, and an index are appended.

Munari, Bruno. The Circus in the Mist; written and illus. by Bruno Munari. World, 1969. 52p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.28 net.

R
3-6 yrs Through grey-white translucent paper are the dim shapes of city scenes, showing through the pages and effectively evoking a sense of a quiet, fog-bound day. The pages then erupt into color: clowns, animals, musicians, bright lights, and all the paraphernalia of a circus; added to this are the inventive use of cut-out pages that distinguish Munari's work, circles that give different effects on each page. Out again, and into the dim mist of the park. The contrast is tremendously effective and the whole book a visual delight; the text is not as strong, some of it firmly descriptive ("... in the mist birds make only short flight.", "... lifting weights is very hard work ...") some of it irrelevant ("... toy boat in a dish and a pocket-size fish ...", "... the train leaves on the dot so suddenly that it scares a little bird ...") but there is a playful quality of humor, often in both text and illustrations, that makes this seem acceptable.

Napier, John. The Origins of Man; illus. by Maurice Wilson. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 32p. Trade ed. \$4.50; Library ed. \$4.33 net.

R
4-6 Director of the Primate Biology Program at the Smithsonian, John Napier adds to his professional competence a sense of drama and a simplicity of approach that make his writing enjoyable as well as authoritative. The interpretation of the "survival of the fittest" theory and explanation of adaptation are particularly lucid, as the author traces the evolution of primates from the early mammals, highlighting the physical features that enabled early man to take the first steps toward communication and civilization. A diagram of an evolutionary tree is included. Not comprehensive, but serving well as an introduction, the book is not enhanced by the illustrations, which add little information.

Parish, Peggy. Granny and the Indians; illus. by Brinton Turkle. Macmillan, 1969. 40p. \$3.95.

A light-hearted story for young independent readers, the illustrations

R 2-3 echoing the humor of the text but lacking the polish of most Turkle pictures. Granny is a natural scavenger, and the alarmed braves who live nearby become angry when she robs their traps and walks off with a turkey they have just shot down. When her house burns, Granny invites herself to live with the Indians; all they can do to get rid of her is build a new cabin. She then volunteers to come over for meals. Horrified, the fierce warriors arrange to leave meat at Granny's doorstep each day . . . funny thing, she never saw the Indians again, "they made sure of that," the story ends. The role-reversal is amusing, but the artful touch that makes the tale most enjoyable is the fact that Granny never realizes how the Indians feel about her.

Perovskaya, Olga. The Wolf in Olga's Kitchen; tr. from the Russian by Fainna Glagoleva; illus. by Angie Culfogienis. Bobbs-Merrill, 1969. 229p. \$5.50.

R 4-6 The childhood reminiscences of a writer of Russian children's books have the flavor of country life in the past, the appeal of a foreign setting, and the double attractions of animal stories and family life. Olga and her three sisters, whose father was a forester, shared a love of animals—especially wild animals. Each chapter of her story describes different creatures in the endless parade of pets: the two wolves brought home as new, staggering cubs; the ill-tempered donkey, a Siberian stag, a baby fox, a horse, a tiger cub. The descriptions of the animals are so affectionate yet unsentimental, the children so lively and natural, that the anecdotes have an appealing warmth and universality.

Peyton, K. M. The Edge of the Cloud; illus. by Victor G. Ambrus. World, 1970. 207p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.86 net.

R 7-10 A sequel to Flambards, in which the orphaned Christina goes against the wishes of the uncle with whom she lives, and runs off with his younger son Will rather than marrying Will's brother. Here the pair have just taken refuge with their aunt, Christina to stay until she comes into her fortune or Will's father dies, and Will to look for work. But Will's work is flying and the time is just prior to the first World War . . . so it is a long struggle for the engaged pair. The story ends in their marriage; the book, ostensibly a love story, has very little romance in it but is filled with fascinating details about the early days of flying, the experimental planes, the pioneer stunt men, the whole atmosphere of freedom and camaraderie. The style, the characters, the setting, and the plot are deftly interwoven.

Raiff, Stan. Get Ready! Get Set! Go! A European Travel Guide for Young People; illus. by William Accorsi. Doubleday, 1970. 491p. \$6.95.

R 5-10 An extremely useful book for the adolescent traveler, since it describes many museums and theaters of special interest to the young as well as sites and sights in eleven major cities: Amsterdam, Berne, Copenhagen, Dublin, London, Munich, Paris, Rome, Florence, Venice, and Vienna. The book gives information about prices and fares, hotels and transportation, common phrases (with phonetic spelling and translation) shops, customs, special events, and historical background for many of the places, people, and events commemorated. There are, unfortunately, no maps or index, and the style is occasionally gushy, but the facts given

are valuable and many of them are not included in other travel books. A list of European tourist offices in the United States is appended.

Rinkoff, Barbara. Harry's Homemade Robot; illus. by Leonard Shortall. Crown, 1969. 32p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.35 net.

M
K-2 Harry's mother thought he spent too much time in the basement, and his father disapproved of all the poking around in garbage cans, looking for odd bits of hardware, but the finished robot was worth all the censure as well as the work—to Harry. His sister screamed in the night when the robot's tape got stuck while it was spelling—the idea had been to coach her, but it didn't work. His aunt insisted the robot had blown a fuse. Nobody wanted him to keep it, until he tried to have the robot save his father's energy by having it wax the floor. That didn't work either, but it intrigued Harry's father, and he led a family vote in favor of keeping the robot. The subject is appealing, the writing has a light touch; the weakness of the story is the unconvincing ending; there seems to be no reason for other members of the family to change their minds just because father did.

Ritchie, Rita. Night Coach to Paris. Norton, 1970. 247p. Trade ed. \$5.95; Library ed. \$5.34 net.

NR
6-9 A young American of French descent goes to France during the time of their revolution to bring a young cousin to America. He immediately falls into the hands of thieves, is pursued (he knows not why) and goes into hiding, joins a theatrical troupe, discovers that the malevolent Felix is still hounding him, finds that a lad in the company is his cousin Estelle in disguise, et cetera. The story is supersaturated with facts about the revolution, and the protagonist is unconvincingly involved in the affairs of Robespierre and in his bloody defeat. The story has plenty of action and some historical interest, but the plot is tortuous and contrived.

Sandberg, Inger. The Boy with Many Houses; illus. by Lasse Sandberg. Delacorte, 1969. 30p. Trade ed. \$4.25; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

Ad
3-5
yrs An oversize book with starkly simple illustrations, the theme both familiar and amusing, the story line slight. Matthew decides to build a house out of a rug, a chair, some blocks, and a wagon. The cleaning woman politely ejects him from his room; he moves to the kitchen, where his father ejects him not so politely after he has tripped on Matthew's house. Matthew establishes a new domicile in his sister's room, incidentally trying all her cosmetics. Third eviction. The fourth is by his mother, then his father again, then his brother. Finally his brother builds Matthew a house in the woods across from their yard, a ploy so successful that soon the woods is filled with the play-houses of other children. The ending is weak, although the idea may be appealing, because it is isolated from the rest of the story.

Schulman, L. M., ad. The Loners; Short Stories about the Young and Alienated; ed. by L. M. Schulman. Macmillan, 1970. 279p. \$4.95.

R
9- Ten long stories about young people in a time of conflict or in an untenable situation, varied in every way except their excellence. The authors are Babel, Baldwin, Conrad, Faulkner, Faust, Hemingway, McCullers, Maxwell, Sillitoe, and Stafford. One of the most effective is

Faust's "Philco Baby", in which a lonely young man, afraid to enter any relationship, lives with and for his radio programs. Still poignant is Hemingway's "Soldier's Home", a classic picture of the disoriented veteran, and Baldwin's "Sonny's Blues" is a sharp, painful depiction of the problems of black youth. A section of biographical notes is appended.

Shay, Arthur. What Happens in a Car Factory. Reilly and Lee, 1969. 27p. illus. \$3.50.

Ad 3-4 Although the writing has a patronizing note, the subject, the format, and the vocabulary level are all conducive to reader-interest at the primary level. The text describes, and the photographs illustrate, various stages of design and improvement of models, building and assembling of parts, and the checking and testing of the finished product.

Shuttlesworth, Dorothy Edwards. Natural Partnerships; The Story of Symbiosis; illus. by Su Zan Noguchi Swain. Doubleday, 1969. 62p. \$3.95.

R 5-9 An oversize book, profusely illustrated with meticulous drawings of plant and animal life; some of the pictures are inadequately labeled and some are badly placed, but neither weakness prevails. The text is straightforward and rather dry in style, but lucid in explanation of mutualism, parasitism, and commensalism; it is divided by types of flora and fauna, chapter titles indicating "Plant and Animal Partners", "Birds and Beasts", "In the Insect World", or "When Two Plants Make One", for example. A brief final section discusses, very superficially, ecological balance. An index is appended.

Silverman, Alvin. Joe Di Maggio; The Golden Year 1941. Prentice-Hall, 1969. 234p. illus. \$5.95.

Ad 6-9 The suspense, the excitement, and the mounting tension of the year in which Di Maggio set his unbelievable record—a 56-game hitting streak—are vividly conveyed by an experienced sports writer. The book is, however, not improved by sections that move back in time to another segment of Di Maggio's career, or by the staccato interpolations, here and there, of a page of headlines and quotations reflecting events then current. Game descriptions are good, and the author establishes Di Maggio's character deftly, although there is a minimum of personal material in the text. Statistical tables are appended, after an ending that is disproportionately saccharine.

Simon, John, ed. Fourteen for Now; A Collection of Contemporary Stories; ed. and with commentaries by John Simon. Harper, 1969. 316p. Trade ed. \$4.95; Library ed. \$4.43 net.

R 9- Written in the last two decades, an assortment of stories that are a mirror and an indictment of the confusion and alienation of modern man. The authors are Berriault, Böll, Bowles, Chester, Dagerman, Elliott, Faust, Friedman, LeClézio, Malamud, Oates, O'Connor, Santa, and Traven. The stories differ widely in theme, plot, style, and mood; each is followed by a long editorial analysis, perceptive and articulate, often biased. Biographical notes are appended.

Simon, Seymour. Discovering What Frogs Do. McGraw-Hill, 1969. 47p. illus. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.83 net.

Ad 2-4 A good introduction to the topic, the text describing the frog's life cycle, mating and feeding habits, and anatomy—the latter unfortunately not illustrated. The book also gives instructions for catching frogs, caring for them properly in a home aquarium, and testing them in a series of home demonstrations, frequently using the process approach. The information given is useful, the illustrations adequate; the writing is marred by an occasional excursion into exclamation points and by some patronizing questions ("How is this an advantage for the egg?" the author asks just after stating that a certain color pattern makes the egg difficult to see from below.) A final page, headed "A Note on the Names of Frogs" gives the common and scientific names for the leopard frog described in the text, and for three others.

Stephenson, Marjorie, comp. Fives, Sixes and Sevens; illus. by Denis Wrigley. Warne, 1969. 128p. \$3.95

Ad 4-7 yrs A useful anthology of poems for the very young, the material divided by years, the illustrations of undistinguished quality. Quite a few of the selections are anonymous, but many are from well-known children's poets: Farjeon, Reeves, De La Mare, Fisher; the bulk of the poems are on conventional subjects and are good, but not excellent, choices.

Stiller, Richard. Queen of Populists; The Story of Mary Elizabeth Lease. T. Y. Crowell, 1970. 245p. illus. \$4.50.

Ad 6-9 She had been first a teacher, then a farmer's wife, then a housewife and mother in a small town. Who would have guessed that quiet Mrs. Lease would explode into such articulate protest that she would become one of the most prominent women in the country? Her own hopes for security thwarted by the dust, the extremes of weather, the financial stranglehold of the railroads on small farmers, Mary Elizabeth Lease was the clarion voice of the Populist Party in the late nineteenth century, one of the passionate reformers whose proposals were scorned—such wild ideas as a graduated income tax, a rural free delivery service, government loans to individuals, the eight-hour day, and direct election of senators. An interesting biography of the first woman politician of our country, candid in tone but marred by repetitive and eulogistic passages. An index is appended.

Stovall, Emmett. In the Face of the Sun; by Emmett Stovall with R. E. Simon. Childrens Press, 1970. 64p. illus. (Open Door Books) \$3.

R 6-9 A series of career-oriented books, each written (actually co-written) by a member of a minority group, in autobiographical format, each followed by several pages of guidance information: training, nature of the work, working conditions, sources of further information, et cetera. Here the black owner of a small but flourishing airline describes his early love for planes and his determination to fly. Working and studying part-time, Emmett Stovall achieved his goal, being licensed to fly by instrument and in bad weather—but nobody would hire a black man. The book ends, after paying tribute to his wife and daughter, with Stovall's vow of future success in a mawkish passage that bears the stamp of journalese.

Turner, Philip. War on the Darnel; illus. by W. T. Mars. World, 1969. 196p.

Trade ed. \$4.25; Library ed. \$3.97 net.

- R
5-9 A sequel to Colonel Shepertons Clock and several other delightful books about three lively English boys whose ingenuity and curiosity afford them—and the reader—the pleasures of some fascinating capers. Here they engage in a mighty battle with another set of boys who have set up a river barricade and are asking a fee in the name of charity. The trio are all for the charity, but their spirits cannot resist the challenge, and they organize a counter-attack that is complicated, funny, clever, and successful. The characterization is good, the dialogue even better, and the setting firmly British.

Willard, Barbara. The Pocket Mouse; illus. by Mary Russon. Knopf, 1969. 32p. \$3.75.

- Ad
2-3 First published in Great Britain, the story of a small boy who goes to visit his grandfather and finds the housekeeper forbidding. "She'll like you if you're nice to her," Mother had said of Miss Bagley. Miss Bagley fussed about the crumbs in Colin's pocket, crumbs he kept for a stuffed mouse. To put Miss Bagley in her place, Colin pretended to have a real mouse; to his surprise, she seemed undaunted and even gave him a special cage. When a real mouse crawled into his pocket, Colin found that the mouse-house seemed a prison to a live animal, and it was Miss Bagley who understood and who helped him, in the middle of the night, take the small creature back to the field. "And were you nice to Miss Bagley?" his mother asked. "Well, she was nice to me." The pace is sedate, the writing competent, the illustrations attractive; the story is ostensibly about Colin and his desire for a pet, but it shifts its emphasis to the relationship between adult and child.

Wilson, Carter. On Firm Ice; illus. by William A. Berry. T. Y. Crowell, 1970. 103p. \$3.95.

- R
4-6 A story of the Netsilik Eskimos, who move each winter from the coast of northern Canada to the solidly frozen ice of Pelly Bay, there subsisting chiefly on seals caught through ice holes. In a series of episodes (some first person, some third) the author gives a vivid picture of the patterned yet simple life of the tribe: the rivalries and festivals, the folklore and the mores of a dignified and primitive way of life.

Wise, William. The Terrible Trumpet; illus. by B. Biro. Norton, 1969. 48p. Trade ed. \$3.50; Library ed. \$3.32 net.

- M
2-3 Jason was absolutely sure that his letter was going to win the competition for the Pop-and-Crackle Wheat Crispies prize, a St. Bernard puppy, but all he got was a trumpet. All his neighbors liked Jason, but they didn't like his noisy trumpet; one neighbor complained that his cows only gave half as much milk. When Jason used his trumpet to frighten a bull that was threatening two little girls, he became a minor hero—but people still didn't like his trumpet, so they got together and presented him with a St. Bernard, politely requesting that the trumpet be donated (as an exhibit) to the local Historical Museum. So Jason went back to a quiet life—except that a St. Bernard's bark can be very loud. The story has humor, but it is heavy-handed; the style is bland and the plot plodding.

Wright, Mildred Whatley. A Sky Full of Dragons; illus. by Carroll Dolezal. Steck-Vaughn, 1969. 32p. \$3.25.

M On sunny days Lee Chow and his grandfather always went to the park
K-2 together. One day Lee Chow was invited to join a game of marbles but he had no marbles, and there were none in the chest of wonderful things from China. But out of that chest came a dragon kite for Lee Chow which the other boys admired; late into the night Lee Chow and his grandfather worked to make dragon kites for all the boys from the supplies in the magic chest, and the next day each of the grateful boys (four white, one black) gave Lee Chow five marbles. The budding intercultural friendship is well-intended, but the story is slight and stiffly told. The illustrations show that Lee Chow is dressed in Chinese garb, and the setting is San Francisco today; in general the illustrations are of poor quality, with large, fanciful flowers springing up at the boys' feet.

Yolen, Jane H. The Wizard of Washington Square; illus. by Ray Cruz. World, 1969. 126p. Trade ed. \$3.75; Library ed. \$3.61 net.

R The wizard is a wee man who lives under the fountain in Washington
3-5 Square, where doubting David is taken by his new friend Leilah, who explains that all small children know about him, but they forget when they get to be nine or ten. She has practiced remembering. The wizard, who has been forlornly hoping to improve his mediocre record and be recalled, enlists the help of the children; when he accidentally turns David's dog into a statue, it is he who helps them—but not before a few merry ploys that give the author a chance to poke fun at some of the Greenwich Village types and to exploit a few local legends. The bland style is a good foil for the gay extravagance of the fanciful plot.

Young, Miriam. Can't You Pretend? illus. by Steven Kellogg. Putnam, 1970. 24p. \$3.49.

R A pleasant story about imaginative play, with some definite overtones
K-2 of boy and girl self-images. Cathy often found, when she accepted an invitation from Chris to join his pretending, that she was expected to do things that were not at all feminine. (Who ever heard of a girl turning into a half man-half ape because of a mad scientist's potion?) But Chris didn't want to play house—at least, he didn't want to be the mother. The end: a game that both can enjoy, pretending to be a circus. The ending is a bit anticlimactic, but the story is well-sustained by the verisimilitude of the children's behavior and by the humorous illustrations.

Young, Miriam. If I Flew a Plane; illus. by Robert Quackenbush. Lothrop, 1970. 31p. Trade ed. \$3.95; Library ed. \$3.78 net.

R "If I flew a passenger plane . . . a helicopter . . . a cargo plane . . ."
K-2 A small boy, sitting in the midst of a collection of model planes, muses about his future (usually glamorous) and the choice of craft. Every type of airplane he considers offers delightful possibilities, as does space flight. He finally comes down to earth and imagines a model that combines all the features of the various types. Maybe he'll try each one in turn, he decides, as the book ends. Not a story, the book doesn't have enough information to be called a fact book either, but it does have a fascinating subject, a light-handed treatment, and pictures of planes, planes, planes.

Reading for Librarians

To order any of the items listed here, please write directly to the publisher of the item, not to the BULLETIN of the Center for Children's Books.

American Library Association. Periodicals for School Libraries. Comp. by the Periodicals List Subcommittee, Marion Scott, Ch. A.L.A., 1969. 217p. paper. \$3.50. Order from A.L.A., Publications Dept., 50 E. Huron Street, Chicago, Illinois 60611.

Barnes, Melvyn. Youth Library Work. Archon, 1969. 98p. \$4.

Children's Book Council. Children's Books: Awards and Prizes. 32p. paper. \$4.95. From C.B.C., 175 5th Avenue, New York, New York 10010.

Blyth, Marian D. "A Case for Irrelevance." English Journal, March, 1970
Article on the path to loving books and reading.

Haviland, Virginia. "The Children's Book Section, Library of Congress."
School Education, May, 1969. A copy of Children's Books 1968 is bound in.

Katz, Bill and Gargal, Berry. Magazines for Libraries. R. R. Bowker, 1969. 409p. \$16.95. Classified, divided, annotated.

Meigs, Cornelia et al. A Critical History of Children's Literature. Rev. ed. Macmillan, 1969. 768p. \$12.95.

National Education Association. Research Division. School Library Manpower Project, Robert N. Case, Director. School Library Personnel Task Analysis Survey. A.L.A., 1969. 91p. paper. \$2.

Rollins, Charlemae. "The Art of Storytelling." Illinois Libraries, January, 1969.

Roselle, Daniel. Samuel Griswold Goodrich, Creator of Peter Parley. State University of New York Press. 181p. \$6. Thurlow Terrace, Albany, New York 12201.

Sheviak, Margaret and Anderson, Merrilee. "American 'Fake' Folk Heroes." Elementary English, March, 1969.

Walsh, S. Padraig. General Encyclopedias in Print. R. R. Bowker Co., 1969. 112p. paper. \$3.

